

NEW MEXICO OFFICE OF AFRICAN AMERICAN AFFAIRS STATEWIDE FOCUS

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MO's HEROES

*Providing Needed
Services for
Our Veterans*



ShaDonna McPhaul





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Celebrating Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton



*By Pamelya Herndon,
Special Features Writer*

Representative Sheryl Williams Stapleton made history when she became the first African American woman elected to serve in the New Mexico House of Representatives in January 1, 1995. She made history again on November 26, 2016 when

she became the first African American elected to serve as Floor Leader of the House of Representatives. People around the state are extremely excited to see Representative Stapleton elected to hold this prestigious position because of the multicultural background that she brings to the position. Dr. Harold Bailey, President of the Albuquerque chapter of the NAACP, stated that Representative Stapleton has been an outstanding leader in the African-American community, and the New Mexico community at large, and welcomed her into her new position.

On January 7, 2017, communities around the state celebrated the Representative's election as the new Floor Leader by gathering to honor her at the African American Performing Arts Center. As majority leader, Representative Stapleton will play a key role in running House floor sessions and setting the policy agenda for the

House of Representatives. She is not new to holding a leadership position in the House, she was previously elected as House Majority Whip.

Representative Stapleton says she sees the House of Representatives as "the People's House" and that she and other Members are there to work for all New Mexicans. She encourages every person to share their concerns with their respective representatives. She stated that her priority is to ensure that New Mexico's children obtain a quality education. Representative Stapleton further states that there is a small financial cushion in the House and a small cushion in the Senate and it is the responsibility of the House and Senate to properly fund law enforcement, the judiciary and public safety institutions. At the same time, she says it is important to ensure early intervention programs for high risk groups.

Director's Message



Yvette Kaufman-Bell, Executive Director

Welcome to 2017! The NM Office of African American Affairs (OAAA) outreach coordinators are introduced this issue. They are already implementing initiatives and policy, such as the 90-Day Healthy Body Challenge (Albuquerque and Roswell), Exploration of a New Mexico Black Education Act, Inner Beauty Summit for middle school girls, Young Men of Color Mentorship Program, Black Father's Day Initiative (Las Cruces), FAFSA and Home/Business Ownership Workshops.

December 2016, the "State of Black New Mexico" data hub launched, in partnership with UNM **Center for Education Policy Research**. Policy briefs with the Robert Wood Foundation will be presented via town halls statewide this April and May.

Despite budget cuts, OAAA staff, along with volunteer committees, are more determined than ever to serve our constituents ensuring measurable outcomes in health, education, economics and policy. Combined, OAAA staff serve on over thirty advocacy boards, commissions and committees, representing African Americans. We look forward to 2017 and collaborative accomplishments that will occur on behalf of our beloved community.

Our Outreach Team



Beverly Jordan,
Education Outreach Coordinator

Beverly A. Jordan was born and raised in Rockingham, North Carolina. She is the oldest of three sisters. Beverly knew that she wanted to make a difference in society and be an example for her sisters and other family members. She attended Bennett College in Greensboro, North Carolina, where she majored in business administration. She relocated to Albuquerque, New Mexico, where she has worked in administration for more than 20 years with extensive experience in all aspects of office support.

Beverly has provided high-level administrative support by conducting research, preparing statistical reports, and overseeing up to 12 support team members. She has been instrumental in the development of policy and procedures, resulting in greater efficiency and productivity. While working with diverse community organizations, she has assisted and led the coordination of training sessions, seminars, planning and development meetings and activities for local, state, regional and national conferences.

As a director of membership with the YMCA of Central New Mexico, she learned facility management skills that led to the management of programs. Beverly has also worked for the Albuquerque Public Schools and spent 5 years educating New Mexico's children. She has served in education teaching youth groups and women's organizations as well as elementary age students. She is enjoying her new position as Education Outreach Coordinator and plans to make changes in education within the community as well as throughout the state. She plans to continue her education at the University of New Mexico furthering her study in Education.

She is married to her best friend, Dwayne A. Jordan, and is the mother of 4 children. She enjoys music, singing, skating, shopping, bowling and spending time with her family.



**Kenneth Winfrey, LCSW
Health Outreach Coordinator**

Kenneth Winfrey was born and raised in St. Louis, Missouri. Kenneth attended the School of Visual and Performing Arts, where he studied vocal music, theater and dance. Kenneth's childhood is characterized by growing up with his mother, father, grandfather, older brother, and five generations of relatives --most living within two miles of each other. Kenneth enjoys the great relationship with his large family.

Kenneth graduated the University of Missouri at St. Louis and obtained a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology, with an emphasis in psychobiology, and a Certificate in Writing. Kenneth earned a living in public relations as well as software consulting in St. Louis and Philadelphia before coming to Albuquerque, New Mexico, in 2002.

While learning to manage living with HIV (diagnosed in 1999), Kenneth came to Albuquerque for a 4-day vacation. Completely "enchanted," Kenneth soon after relocated, and continued doing public relations as well as HIV outreach and program design consulting for various nonprofit organizations in New Mexico. Even though he had barely heard of it before his visit, Kenneth remains "enchanted" with no plans to leave New Mexico.

Kenneth and his former partner adopted two children in 2008, who are now both adults. He pursued his interests in nonprofit organizations and public health education, as well as counseling, by obtaining a Master of Social Work Degree from New Mexico State University in 2011. His focus of study is the development of Afrocentric and culturally relevant approaches to wellness. Kenneth looks forward to a long and exciting career with the Office of African American Affairs, as well as fulfilling his plans to pursue a Doctorate in Social Work, and certification as a Kemeti Yoga Instructor.

His hobbies include art and printmaking, cooking, fitness exercise, gardening, and music.



**Shaina Saint-Lôt,
Economic Outreach Coordinator**

Being born and raised in Haiti and moving to one of the richest countries in the world, made Shaina clearly aware of the differences in quality of life among people worldwide. It never felt right to her that some people suffered and struggled so much while others lounged in luxury, and just because of the place they were born! She knew as a little girl that she wanted to improve the quality of life in places just like her homeland. As she spent more time in the U.S. though, she came to understand that inequality is a complex issue that directly affects well-being and quality of life, unrestricive issues affecting both poor and rich countries alike.

She dedicated her education to understanding the effects of inequality on well-being and development while exploring the grassroots organizations, private businesses, and state institutions that can both spur and hinder equitable growth. In pursuit of that knowledge, she attained two Bachelors from the University of New Mexico, one in Economics and one in International Studies focusing on sustainable community development.

She continued her education as a Gates Scholar at the University of Cambridge in England, completing her Masters in Development Studies. During her studies, she participated in various research and volunteer programs. She is excited to be working on economic development within the New Mexico Black community with OAAA. This is a great opportunity to apply her training to the economic empowerment of a typically overlooked and underserved population. Development Economics has long been her passion and she is determined to hone that passion into skillful capability.

Meet LEONARD WAITES: New Director of the NM MLK Jr. State Commission



Meet LEONARD WAITES: New Director of the NM MLK Jr. Commission pictured above with Dr. Wanda Ross Padilla

By Dr. Wanda Ross Padilla

The new Director of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. State Commission is a familiar and respected face in Albuquerque. His family is considered to be one of the pioneer families in Albuquerque. His father was the first African American hired by General Electric. His mother, an entrepreneur, was a beauty shop owner and operator. Others that know and admire him stated that he was also a star athlete in high school.

Leonard has been described by all who know him as a genuinely nice guy. Upon meeting him for the first time at the Office of African American Affairs' Corley Corporate luncheon, I am inclined to agree.

Leonard was appointed to the prestigious Police Oversight Task Force and was elected as its Chair in 2015. He is a life member of the NAACP. Leonard was very hesitant in talking about himself during our telephone interview. He indicated that being the sole employee of the MLK Jr. State Commission, he had his hands full with the mundane tasks of paying bills and getting things

organized. When asked why he decided to apply for this position after being in the corporate manufacturing world, he indicated that he was inspired by the Late Community Activist, Fred Ward, and his commitment to Albuquerque's Black community. Leonard's desire is to continue Fred Ward's legacy by being an advocate and fighter for the underserved population in the community. He also has a strong desire to follow in the footsteps of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. to serve as an advocate for ALL persons regardless of race, creed, color, religious or sexual orientation.

Leonard has served on the Board of the Sickle Cell Council of New Mexico. His years in successful business financial management and human resources make him a great choice for this position as Executive Director of the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. State Commission. Leonard stated that he "has always stood by Martin Luther King's Principles for Nonviolence as a way of managing my life." Also, that he is "meticulous with detail, a visionary leader, and can resolve problems in a fast-paced and deadline-driven environment."

Mr. James Lewis, former State Treasurer of New Mexico, shared that Leonard (like himself) is a 33rd degree Mason. The Masons is a worldwide organization and the 33rd degree is the highest accomplishment a member of the organization can hold.

Leonard has visions on how to make the NM MLK Jr. State Commission fiscally solvent with the necessary funds to operate effectively. Leonard oversaw the 2017 MLK Jr. March and Parade. He played an important role in the 1st Annual MLK Jr. Indoor Track Meet. The Summer Youth Camp, along with other projects, will continue.

Leonard is in the process of bringing on new staff which will assist him in the many projects on the drawing board for our multicultural Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. State Commission.

Leonard is a respected family man and father and is a member of God's House Church. In his spare time, he enjoys playing golf.

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A Legacy of Leadership

James Lewis



By: Eugene Byerly

James Lewis has a legacy of outstanding achievements in the State of New Mexico's political arena that traces back decades. He is highly regarded for his political acclaim and being an African American trailblazer. In the political arena, Lewis is not just known for serving in an office as a politician, but he is also known for his efficient leadership and bringing about positive change.

Lewis' political accomplishments over many years, have played an integral role in advancing the integrity of the Office of Treasurer at many levels throughout the State of New Mexico. He has had a distinguished and honorable public service career that includes many prestigious honors.

Over Lewis' time of service, he has been an icon of the African American community, breaking down barriers and changing the landscape for African Americans throughout the state of New Mexico in becoming the first African American to serve in a variety of political offices.

Lewis was elected Bernalillo County Treasurer (1982), becoming the first African American to win a countywide election in New Mexico; he won re-election in 1984. In December of 1985, Governor Toney Anaya

appointed Lewis as State Treasurer. After completion of his term, he ran for a full term (1986), becoming the first African American elected to a statewide office in New Mexico. Lewis ran again for the position of state treasurer and won (2006), and served the full term limit until 2014. Lewis is the first and only African American to be elected to a statewide office and the longest serving (13+ years) New Mexico State Treasurer.

Although, his contributions throughout his successful political career have made innumerable differences for the State of New Mexico, his public servant service as an appointed official (appointed by presidents, governors, mayors and other elected officers) has extended his legacy as a qualified accomplished leader. Governor Bruce King appointed him Chief of Staff (November 1990). After Bruce King's defeat in the election of 1994, Lewis served as Acting Director of the Oil, Gas, and Minerals Division of the State Land Office. He was appointed Chief Clerk of the State Corporation Commission in 1995; City Administrator of Rio Rancho 1996; and later that year was appointed as head of the Office of Economic Development and Diversity at the U.S. Department of Energy in Washington, D.C., by President Bill Clinton. He later served under Energy Secretary Bill Richardson. Lewis was appointed the City of Albuquerque's Chief Operating Officer, also holding the position of Chief Administrative Officer for the City of Albuquerque, the highest ranking position for an African American in the history of Albuquerque's city governance, retiring in 2005.

However, his retirement from the political arena has not given him an opportunity to sit down and bask in his accomplishments. Lewis has only altered the directions by which he will continue to extend his legacy of outstanding public service.

Lewis added to his historical accomplishments as the first African American to serve as President of the University of New Mexico Alumni Association, continuing his dedicated service.

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Cover Story: A Modern-Day Hero



**ShaDonna "Mo"
McPhaul**

*By Staff Sgt. Alexx Pons
27th Special Operations Wing Public Affairs
Cannon Air Force Base, N.M.*

"America is more than just a collection of citizens; it is a society of friends, neighbors and families coming together to make our home the embodiment of freedom, liberty and justice. This important vision has endured and stood as a testament to the character of the United States of America, and the armed service members who have faithfully and continually defended this vision. As an active-duty United States Air Force member, ShaDonna "Mo" McPhaul has been a part of this – I extend my sincere thanks to her service and devotion to her country and fellow citizens." – Congressman Mark Takai, 1st Congressional District of Hawaii

In 2013, ShaDonna "Mo" McPhaul founded "Mo's Heroes" while serving at Joint Base Pearl Harbor, Hickam, Hawaii. The non-profit organization provides services that help reintegrate homeless veterans into meaningful employment while addressing other complex issues they face.

McPhaul, now assigned to the 27th Special Operations Maintenance Squadron, decided a program this beneficial should not be kept solely in one location; wanting to directly impact veterans within the local area,

she finalized the steps required to establish a Mo's Heroes chapter in Clovis.

"In order to start a local chapter, we had to submit a formal application to the Secretary of State and pay a fee to obtain our Certificate of Authority," said McPhaul. "My vision is to bring Mo's Heroes to all 50 states by 2017. Veterans come from all states and serve our entire nation; why not provide them this service no matter where they are located," she continued. "I have the honor of finishing my military career here at Cannon as an Air Commando with Air Force Special Operations Command. I was always taught to leave a place better than when you arrived; I hope this program helps bring something special to the Cannon, Clovis and Portales communities."

A combat veteran of 19 years with the Air Force, McPhaul's military service includes tours in several states and countries including Kuwait, United Arab Emirates, and Afghanistan supporting Operations Southern Watch and Enduring Freedom.



**ShaDonna
helping
a fellow
Veteran**

"I have personally witnessed the set-backs, frustrations and barriers fellow veterans and their family members face when transitioning from military service to civilian life," McPhaul stated. "I promised myself to do everything I could to help these veterans and family members obtain the educational, personal and

employment resources they need to get real-time work experience, enter the labor market and succeed – and that should not stop now because I have relocated.”

Mo’s Heroes helps veterans achieve personal and professional goals through a wide range of services which offer employment support, job placement and training, career counseling, resume preparation, case management, and transportation and clothing assistance.

“It has been a personal dream to help homeless veterans get back on their feet after I attended a ‘Hiring our Heroes’ job fair where Mrs. Michelle Obama was the guest speaker in 2011,” McPhaul said. “I believe whole-heartedly in the message that ‘Everyone is a hero to Somebody’.”

In a letter from United States Senator Mazie Hirono dated Sept. 1, McPhaul was personally congratulated for completion of her tour at Hickam and her unwavering direct support of service members, veterans and families within her Hawaii community. The senator lauded her suit drives, employment workshops, Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder Rehabilitation Program and various other initiatives stating that Mo’s Heroes had made a tremendous impact on many lives in Hawaii and across the nation.

The mother of one, and proud native of Fayetteville, North Carolina, has additionally spent countless hours volunteering for the U.S. Vets, Next Step Shelter, Habitat for Humanity, Oahu Veterans Center, Women in Military Service for America Memorial Foundation, and Fleet Reserve Association Branch #46.

As a culmination of her efforts to raise funds for Mo’s Heroes, Kirk Caldwell, Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu, officially proclaimed Aug. 17 to be recognized as Mo’s Wings Monday. If that were not praise enough, David Ige, Governor of Hawaii, also sent warm regards to McPhaul expressing that Mo’s Heroes is a program their community needed greatly, providing veterans in need with hope for a brighter tomorrow.

“I have proudly served in the Air Force since I was 18-years-old and I am proud to add that I come from a military family,” McPhaul stated. “I have learned a lot about helping people, especially veterans, throughout my career. I want to ‘pay it back’ to those leaders and mentors who have influenced me and shaped my career – I want to give back to those who are in need. This is all about ensuring our veterans know that help is available to them and they do not have to suffer in silence.”

Moving forward, an interview with the State Office of African American Affairs revealed that in December 2016, ShaDonna “Mo” McPhaul retired from the Air Force, left Clovis, New Mexico and moved back to her hometown in Fayetteville, North Carolina. However, just as she did when she left Hawaii, ShaDonna left a very proactive Mo’s Heroes program in place actively supporting veterans. “My vision to have the Mo’s Heroes operational in all states throughout the United States is very much a reality. Although Mo’s Heroes doesn’t have a physical office in all 50 states, there are resources and services available for veterans throughout each state. If a veteran can contact one of our offices, we can help them because we know how and where to readily get them resources in their existing location. Once we have Mo’s Heroes offices established in a state, then we can be more proactive in assisting our veterans and not just provide a programmatic reaction to their needs”, says ShaDonna.

When asked to identify instances of assistance, ShaDonna shared, “We have been able to get veterans houses, cars and a variety of different services, but for me to identify a service that stands out above another, it’s

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Update



ShaDonna “Mo” McPhaul, CEO/Founder of Mo’s Heroes received the National Association of the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP) Special Achievement for Community Service Award at the Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. 14th Annual Awards Gala in Honolulu, Hawaii, Saturday, 14 January 2017

New Mexico Black Expo 2016



OAAA staff members, Kenneth Winfrey, and Executive Director, Yvette Kaufman-Bell, ready to start the 3 day extravaganza

Almost 200 small businesses and organizations participated in this year's New Mexico Black Expo offering a plethora of products and services to Expo attendees. Each year the New Mexico Black Expo's objective is to provide resources, engagement opportunities and a shared cultural experience in the focus areas of Economic Empowerment, Health Care Advocacy, Education Advancement, Policy and Advocacy and Community Development.

The Expo spanned over three days, providing a vast array of culturally focused engaging activities.

Day one was the Business Career Fair that featured over 34 businesses interacting with participants primarily about employment and service opportunities; it also provided an opportunity for Business Networking Connections.

Day two was the Economic Empowerment day, accentuating the Ed Corley Sr. Corporate Luncheon, which is named in honor of New Mexico's most successful Black business owners. The day's highpoint included a highly charged interactive panel discussion about "The Value of Black Business in New Mexico". Each high point presented information related to a business-specific area and its effect on African American businesses.

Day One Business Career Fair



The Moderator was Gene Grant of New Mexico Specific Business Area Broadcast System. The panel consisted of Kenneth Carson Jr, Owner of Nexus Brewery; Ralph L. Mims, Economic Development Manager, Village of Los Lunas; Gary Oppenahl, Director, Economic Development, City of Albuquerque; Kerrie Hurd, Deputy District Director, U.S. Small Business Administration; Barbara Brazil, Deputy Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Economic Development Department; Barbara Damron, Cabinet Secretary, New Mexico Higher Education Department.

Day three, the Expo Cultural Extravaganza, with a stage located as a centerpiece, featured a variety of events designed to entertain and inform Expo guests. In addition to offering a variety of entertainment, the Expo also featured: A Fantasy Hair Battle, Gospel Showcase, Step Show, Health Fair, Trade Show, cultural food, an African Village, Children's corner, and Greek row. The day concluded with an outstanding evening of musical entertainment performed by **The Dazz Band**, an American funk music band whose popularity exploded in the early 1980s.

The three-day occurrence of the New Mexico Black Expo continues to be the most distinguishable event for Black Culture in New Mexico.



Day Two Economic Empowerment Day Panel



Day Three Cultural Extravaganza



Black Lives Matter Panel Sessions Highlight Race Relations at UNM



Black Lives Matter Panel

By Elizabeth Sanchez

Throughout the 2016 Fall semester, the University of New Mexico (UNM) hosted a series of monthly panel discussions - Black Lives Matter at UNM: Campus Climate in the Age of Colorblind Politics. Each discussion highlighted a different issue that affects the African American community and how to create on-campus reform.

Gary Allison and other panelists said many individuals falsely believe we are living in a “post-racial” society, which can create colorblind politics, as it indicates that racism is nonexistent.

Allison said this can result in a scenario similar to students enrolling in UNM with different education levels. “Attempting to treat them all the same is not the way to help them all reach their goals and be successful. People need differentiated support in order to reach the same

outcome,” Allison said. “I think colorblind politics suggests that, just like educational background doesn’t matter, that different people’s experiences that are impacted by their race, or by the community they come from, or by the school they went to (also don’t matter). It’s a fallacy that it’s just about whether or not you’re putting enough effort into it. That’s why colorblind politics suggest that race and racial backgrounds have no impact on your chances for success.”

During the first session, panelists (who represented Baby Boomer, Generation X and Millennial viewpoints) primarily discussed the idea of a post-racial society, racial inequities as well as Black staff, faculty, student acquisition and retention. At this time, they also told personal stories concerning race relations in the United States. One panelist said someone shouted a racial slur at him and his 3-year-old; he also said he was held at gunpoint by police officers while unarmed.

Another speaker said his uncle was beaten to death, because he did not call an officer “sir.”

Upon hearing this, panelist Rev. Dr. Charles Becknell Sr. asked the burning question, “When is it going to stop?”

Africana Studies faculty member Dr. Charles Becknell Jr. and others are attempting to answer just that. As Special Assistant to the Vice President, Division for Equity and Inclusion, which helped create the series, he said the series was prompted by a Campus Climate report. In 2011 and 2013, external reviewers interviewed Black staff, faculty and students to generate the report, which illustrated weak African American recruitment and retention at UNM.

Dr. Becknell Jr. said he hopes these discussions (which often engaged the audience through Q&A, art projects and more) can “transform institutional spaces to provide more equitable spaces for, in this case, African American students,” and eventually benefit all students. He said his goal for these events is to unite people from a “broad-based, multi-generational coalition,” not only to increase the retention of Black faculty, staff and students, but also to improve their sense of belonging.

Dr. Jamal Martin is Director of Peace and Social Justice Studies at UNM and served as a panel moderator at one of the sessions.

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It's All About Father's Day

The State Office of African American Affairs held its first annual Father's Day Event, bringing together fathers and their children for a fun day of competitive games, skill challenges, and team competition.

The objective of the Father's Day celebration is to honor Black fathers, celebrate fatherhood, and promote paternal bonds. The event was a great success and plans for an even greater event this year to be held in Los Cruces. We must all remember the importance of fathers

to their children. Fathers provide much more than half of the child's makeup and composition, they provide a sense of security and a second pair of loving hands especially needed to care for their children. They are resourceful, protective, and very adept at answering those guy-thing questions. When a father truly loves fatherhood, you couldn't ask for a better role model. Please contact the Office of African American Affairs to get additional information about

date, time, and location for the annual Father's Day celebration planned for 2017.

The pictures below are the reflections of a great Father's Day event sponsored by OAAA in 2016.



13th Annual NM Office of African American Affairs Outstanding Service Awards Luncheon

The Annual Outstanding Service Awards event in 2016 recognized a strong class of individuals and organizations who have made significant contributions toward the improvement of life for African Americans in New Mexico.

Outstanding Service Award Recipients



*LT. Col. Eric Amissah,
Education and
Community*



*Wilma Brooks,
Community and
Education*



*Bettye Pressley,
Community and
Development*



*Latoya Gipson Dawson,
Community and
Education*



*Sgt. Abigail Harmon,
Community*



*Linda McDonald
Hummingbird,
Community and
Development*



*Susan Hunter,
Community*



*Debra Johns,
Community and
Education*

Outstanding Service Award Recipients



Brenda Lang Knapp,
*Community and
Education*



Ronald Peeler,
*Community
Development*



Queen Shelton,
*Community and
Healthcare*



Jesse Spicer,
Community

Executive Awards Recipients



Dr. Jozi De Leon,
Education



**Eastern New Mexico
University, Education**



Helen Houston,
Business



Conrad James,
Politics



Jose Munoz,
Education



Ronnie Wallace,
*Community Service
and Media*

Africana Studies Black History Month Kickoff Brunch 2017

The Africana Studies Program held its 32nd Annual Black History Month Kick-off Brunch on January 28th. This year's special guest speaker was Dr. Carol Anderson. Dr. Anderson is the Charles Howard Candler Professor and Chair of Africana Studies at Emory University and has been recognized as one of the foremost figures in the fields of History, Diplomatic Affairs, and Civil Rights. Dr. Anderson is an author of several books, including her critically acclaimed work titled *White Rage: The Unspoken Truth of Our Racial Divide*, which has captured national attention and has been on the New York Times Best Seller lists for numerous weeks.

Africana Studies also presented their Distinguished Alumni Awards to some very distinguished and deserving alumnus of the University of New Mexico. Award recipients were:

African Studies Special Tribute Award: presented to Dr. Robert Jefferson. This award is a special tribute award from faculty and staff.



Africana Studies Distinguished UNM Ambassador Award: presented to Melanie Moses, Ph.D., awarded for dedicated and outstanding advocacy of education and profession in Computer Science and Engineering for New Mexico's communities of color.



Africana Studies Distinguished Alumnus Award: presented to Yagaze Emezi, awarded for excellence in Academics and as an honors Ambassador for Africana Studies.



Africana Studies Outstanding Community Service Award: presented to Yvette Kaufman-Bell, awarded for committed service and dedication to New Mexico's African American Community.



Africana Studies Distinguished Alumnus Award: presented to Timothy Green, IV, Awarded for Excellence in Academics and as an honors Ambassador for Africana Studies.

New Mexico Teen Receives National Honor



Naomi Rankin, a junior at Volcano Vista High School in Albuquerque, New Mexico was one of 350 women selected as a 2017 National Honorable Mention by the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC). The NCWIT Award for AiC honors high school women who are active and interested in computing and technology, and encourages them to pursue their passions. AiC recipients were chosen for their demonstrated interest and achievements in computing, proven leadership ability, academic performance, and plans for postsecondary education. Over 3500 applications were received for this honor. Rankin enjoys attending Volcano Vista where she has a strong academic performance and is currently in the top of her class. She has also lettered in track and field and is Vice-President of the VVHS Black Student Union.

Rankin serves as co-president of her local National Society of Black Engineers (NSBE) Jr. Chapter, through which she has received regional and national MathCounts and Mathlete Awards. She and her partner, Matuke Fumokong, are award-winning participants in the New Mexico Supercomputing Challenge hosted by Los Alamos National Laboratories, where they built computational models that explore the spread of malaria using genetically modified mosquitoes. Last summer, she worked at in the Biological Computational Lab at the University of New Mexico with Dr. Melanie Moses

where she designed a simulation to express the effect of education on the spread of tuberculosis. This work will be shared with Howard University which will incorporate it into Computer Science education for women in South Africa. That summer, she was also accepted to attend the Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Disease Detective Camp with participants from around the world. Naomi is also actively involved in Girl Scouts and Fellowship Missionary Baptist Church's Toddler Ministry and Health and Wellness Ministry.

Rankin said, "I am so grateful for the support of people like Debra Johns, Dr. Moses, and Janeen Anderson, who have given me so many ideas and opportunities here in New Mexico and the friends I have made while doing these things." For fun, she enjoys solving puzzles, attending Comic Con, watching *Sherlock* with her siblings, and reading dystopian future books in preparation for the zombie apocalypse. Naomi is excited to study computational epidemiology, to help eradicate viruses.

Photo source: CDC Museum.



Exceptional young ladies

Naomi Rankin (Albuquerque) and Matuke Fumokong (Rio Rancho) won the 2017 New Mexico Central and Northern New Mexico Competition for the National Center for Women & Information Technology (NCWIT) Award for Aspirations in Computing (AiC). Fumokong and Rankin served as partners in the NM Supercomputing Challenge hosted by Los Alamos National Laboratories, where they built computational models that explore the spread of malaria using genetically-modified mosquitoes.

University Students Making A Difference

New Mexico State University Black Student Association



Students of the New Mexico State University Black Students Association, attending day two of the Black Expo, Economic Empowerment Day, in Albuquerque

Hailing all the way from Las Cruces, New Mexico, the Black Students Association (BSA) at New Mexico State University has been uniting students of the African diaspora since the 1970s. Through the years, the association has stayed true to their objectives of being a link between the Black community at New Mexico State University and surrounding areas, increasing awareness and participation for Black issues through educational, culturally oriented and socially conscious programming. They have been a unifying force towards enhancing the conditions and environment for Black students on campus and enhancing Black excellence at the University.

Under the advisement of Black Programs Director, Dr. Festus Addo-Yobo, the Black Student Association has had the ability to flourish to various new heights.

In recent years, BSA in association with other Black student organizations such as the Brotherhood Circle and NMSU chapter of the National Society for Black Engineers (NSBE), have been involved with various organizations, clubs, student governments, campaigns and activism. All actions broadened the perspectives of what it means to be a Black leader and an agent for

prosperity and mentorship in New Mexico's Black community. Dr. Addo-Yobo has led the program for over 10 years with his unique and innovative leadership style and guidance. Student leaders who make up the Black Students Association and others under his tutelage are encouraged to explore and experiment with various leadership styles. Trainings and discussions provided throughout the school-year enable student leaders to learn more about how to communicate effectively so that they are adaptable to many different projects throughout each academic year and beyond.

BSA has an average membership of 40 students, and maintains a diverse family of students looking to shine a spotlight on the work of young Black leaders in the southwest. The Black Student Association's Executive team is comprised of eight officers who govern the organization: President, Vice President, Secretary, Parliamentarian, Media and Marketing Officer, Public Relations Officer, Diversity Relations Officer and Peer Mentor/ Black Programs Liaison. The roster of young leaders includes Artwan Green, Mariah Walker, Chris love, Meligha Garfield, Kevan Henry, Eryca Wafer, Arriyanna J Edwards, Jade Davis, Sidney Ellis, and Alyssa Cox. The Black Student Association is also proud to have the support and wisdom of Graduate Mentors, Chemey De Santos Andre and Rose Vidal.

During the past year, this team has successfully partnered with select groups on campus and organizations nationwide. In spring 2016, BSA partnered with Soul Verse and other campus partners for a campaign to host Grammy-winning Afro Cuban artist Danay Suarez to NMSU, becoming one of their most successful collaborations to date. The event was a success and they had a total participation of 800 attendees.

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University Students Making A Difference

Greetings from African American Student Services:



2016 STEM Class

We are excited to continue our Summer BEST (Black Excellence in Science and Technology) Academy for 8th grade students who will be entering 9th grade the fall of 2017. This pre-college program is designed to educate African American students in STEM skills, engage them in the practical aspects of STEM, and inspire them to pursue careers in STEM fields. The students will also engage in African American cultural and social activities designed to provide a holistic learning experience.

This 6-week program includes a sports and academic component. In the first 4-weeks, students are encouraged to participate in UNM's Summer Youth Sports Program (SYSP) ages 8-14. The program's tentative date for 2017 is June 5th-30th.

For more information regarding SYSP, visit coe.unm.edu. During this time, the BEST Academy cohort will participate in various activities focusing on health and sports within SYSP. The last two weeks (July 3rd - July 14th), the BEST Academy students will be exposed to STEM degree programs, careers, high school math with a college instructor and will be required to complete a final project.

BEST Academy requirements: Students who will be entering 9th grade in the 2017-2018 school year and have an interest in pursuing a STEM career. The deadline for registration is May 1, 2017!

For more information, contact African American Student Services 505-277-5645 or visit afro.unm.edu to download the interest form and or application!

Winter Roots



Winter Roots took on a different look from past years as this year it focused on exposing the youth to the principles of Kwanzaa through both a Kwanzaa ceremony and different carnival booths/games. Each booth was run by one of our Black Student Organizations and the booths/games included ornament decorating, Kwanzaa wreaths, hot chocolate reindeers, Kwanzaa Kinara coloring pages, etc. We also featured our UNM Gospel Choir and creative performances (songs, poetry, and dances) from our AASS student population.

Alamogordo, New Mexico

A Devoted Leader Whose Journey Was All about Giving



Johnnie B. Holloway Scott, a longtime resident of Alamogordo, passed away December 7, 2016, in Las Cruces, New Mexico.

Mrs. Scott was a graduate of Stanton High School, received an Associates of Arts degree in Home Economics from Edward Waters College in Jacksonville, Florida; a Bachelor of Science degree in Home Economics with a minor in Elementary Education from Bethune-Cookman College, Daytona Beach, Florida; a Master of Arts degree in Special Education from Colorado State University now Northern Colorado University, Greeley, Colorado; and an Elementary Principal's Certificate, New Mexico State University.

Johnnie B. Scott was a treasure for New Mexico for many years. Her love and desire to be a difference maker was exemplified through the work she did with children; a kind-hearted leader who was willing to give her best in every situation. She always seemed to be willing to give more than you even expected of her.

She was the first paid teacher and Director at the Zia School and Therapy Center in Alamogordo,

New Mexico from 1961-1962. She served as a fifth grade teacher at Holloman AFB and in Alamogordo. Johnnie Scott's community service included New Mexico Governor's award, Outstanding New Mexico Women; State delegate to the White House Conference on Libraries in Washington, D.C.; Alamogordo Hall of Fame Inductee; Woman of the Year Business and Professional Women; Alamogordo High School Scholarship Foundation; Black History Chairperson, City of Alamogordo and New Hope Baptist Church for approximately 25 years; Otero County United Way Board Member and Secretary; Martin Luther King, Jr. Committee Treasurer Otero County; Otero County Kiwanians Past President, Board Member and Scholarship Committee; and Zia Girl Scout Council Board of Governors. Johnnie Scott was a life member and former treasurer of Alamogordo Branch NAACP. In addition, she served on the NAACP state audit committee. She was a life member of Alpha Kappa Alpha Golden Soror. As a member and Deaconess at New Hope Baptist Church, Mrs. Scott was active in teaching Sunday School, Bible School and the Training Union.

Johnnie Scott authored several published historical articles focusing on pioneers of Southern New Mexico. She was an exceptional seamstress and cook who enjoyed crocheting and knitting, traveling, spending time with her grandsons and staying at the family cabin in the mountains.

Alamogordo and New Mexico has lost an irreplaceable treasure in Johnnie B. Scott, and to say that she will be missed is an understatement of a painful reality. Johnnie has left us way too soon, but in reality she was a servant of God whose life will continue to orchestrate change. Johnnie allowed us to dream through her life and to share her journey enhancing the lives of young people. We should embrace the countless memories and the immeasurable love she unselfishly shared with everyone she came in contact with. Johnnie B. Scott left us all better for having known her; her energy and zest for life was earmarked in her foundation.

Albuquerque, New Mexico

For Our Future, DreamBIG



Kevin Banks on the left, with members of his support team

By Erica Crump

There is no question about the priority of the wellness, opportunities, safety, and resources for our children. Now more than ever, today's climate screams for immediate, sustainable programs. Communities and organizations have come together in reaction to these needs in an attempt to establish initiatives that enable our youth for greatness, anchor their protection and safety, and push them in the path of success. There is one man who has been quietly ahead of the curve. Through his non-profit over the last 6 years 100,000 individuals have been served in those exact areas here in New Mexico. 66,000 students in New Mexico and Texas meet the beginning of their academic year in confidence with the look, tools, and materials they need.

No, this is not United Way, Big Brothers Big Sisters, YMCA, or any other nationally recognized organization you may assume. This is a New Mexico born, and sustained local non-profit known as DreamBIG. The CEO has south valley roots, is an Albuquerque High alumn, dedicated employee, father of four, and a member of our community. Kevin Banks (CEO, and founder of DreamBIG) developed the program known as Kutz4Kidz that got its start 6 years ago. According to the data, this event that occurs in one day has more of a direct impact on the New Mexico's families than any other non-profit or organization will aspire to make within an entire year. Attendees simply need a valid I.D. and

legal guardian present. Families will walk away with resources, materials, and even on site medical check pricing at \$150.00 per person absolutely FREE. The event itself should cost a projected \$350,000.00. Yet the need in the community that Banks has rallied for has triggered many big (and small) companies to do their part through sponsorship.

In speaking with Kevin Banks about Kutz4Kidz he uncovered how this is much more than a giveaway program. This is designed to incorporate and honor all children and their unique journey into a new school year. Starting with "The Tyler Hour" (named after Banks' nephew who has autism), the hour is for children with autism (in partnership with the NM Autism Society) and children with other abilities. The hour is also in support of the Cops4Kids program, where law enforcement mentors escort children who have been identified through their program and DreamBIG as underserved or underprivileged. These children are VIP for a day. They are included in the morning parade and brought into the fairgrounds via motorcade, and those children formally kick off Kutz4Kids.

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Hair cuts are a major component of the program

Events and activities provide variety



Carlsbad, New Mexico

“Captain Williams Lane”

*James and
Julia Williams
surrounded
by family
members*



In Carlsbad, New Mexico, the names of James and Julia Williams are aligned with community service and giving. However, this time James and his family are receiving a most special recognition by having a street named to honor his dedicated years of service for the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico. Below is the proclamation issued by Mayor Dale Janway mandating the special service award:

CITY OF CARLSBAD OFFICE OF THE MAYOR

*I, DALE JANWAY, Mayor of the City of Carlsbad, do announce that
Captain James Williams
is an
OUTSTANDING CITIZEN*

of the City of Carlsbad, New Mexico, and is given very special recognition for his devoted service to this community by having a street near one of Carlsbad’s newest centers of education named in his honor.

For many years, retired Police Captain James Williams has helped organize and run the Martin Luther King Jr. Scholarship Committee, which provides scholarships for our youth.

Captain Williams, as most of us call him, served on Carlsbad’s School Board. As a police officer, he was noted for his outreach with youth and his focus on proactive policing. He has served on numerous boards and would always take the time to help improve Carlsbad whenever it was needed.

These days, he stays busy with his security company, and doing everything his wife, Julia, tells him. He has always been an advocate for youth and education.

NOW, THEREFORE, in special recognition I, Mayor Dale Janway, dedicate this street in the City of Carlsbad, on August 8, 2016, to be,

“Captain Williams Lane”

Dale Janway, Mayor

Hobbs, New Mexico

Pink Ball Success



*Helen Houston,
President of the
African American
Chamber of
Commerce in
Hobbs*

Helen Houston is currently President of the African American Chamber of Commerce in Hobbs, New Mexico, and their Chamber held its inaugural Pink Ball in October of 2016, during National Breast Cancer Awareness Month. The event served as a fundraiser and brought awareness to the importance of the community being educated and proactive when it comes to breast cancer.

One of the highlights of the event was that in attendance were five breast cancer survivors. Each was presented a \$150 check. Among the five breast cancer survivors was Chamber Board Member and Treasurer, Wilma Brooks. Also presented was a \$1500 check to The Light of Lea County's organization because of the valuable assistance provided to women and men dealing with breast cancer.

The African American Chamber of Hobbs was the lead organization for the event. They receive financial support from other community organizations through purchase of tables for the event, including the State Office of African American Affairs, which also provided guidance, material support, and advertising for the event.

Notable representatives who attended the event were JJ Murphy, City Manager for the City of Hobbs; City Commissioner Mr. Joe Calderon; New Mexico Junior College; College of the Southwest; Hispanic Chamber of Commerce; URENCO; and the JF Maddox Foundation. Ms. Evelyn Rising served as the Mistress of Ceremony, and the special guest speaker was Ms. Kate Durrett from Lovington, New Mexico. She is a



*Breast Cancer Survivors honored
at the Pink Ball*

Volunteer Coordinator with the Nor Lea Hospital District Cancer Center in Lovington.

There were over 100 people in attendance, benefitting over \$6000 to further promote breast cancer awareness and help special-need individuals related to the effects of breast cancer. "Before, we were able to only focus on adults with cancer. We are now able to expand our focus to children as well," said Houston, who went on to add, "We were very pleased with the turnout, although we only expect the numbers to grow as we plan to make this an annual event here in Hobbs, New Mexico."

The African American Chamber in Hobbs began in 2011 and Byron Marshall served as its first president. Ms. Helen Houston was living in Georgia at the time, but moved to Hobbs in 2011 and began working for the Chamber as a volunteer. Patricia Jones was the Chamber President in 2013, when the chamber became affiliated with the National Black Chamber of Commerce in Washington D.C. Ms. Patricia Taylor later resigned because she needed to dedicate more time to her business and Ms. Houston was elected President in 2014.

In March 2017, the Chamber will be changing its name from the African American Chamber of Commerce, Hobbs, New Mexico, to the New Mexico National Black Chamber of Commerce. It is the only chamber in New Mexico affiliated with the National Black Chamber.

Las Cruces, New Mexico

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School Becomes A Historical Landmark



Article submitted by Kalonji Mwanza, Bobbie J. Fuller Boyer, they are pictured on the left

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School is a rectangular brick elementary school, which was built by Doña Ana County in 1926 after the school board chose to racially segregate its public schools the previous year.

The Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School in Vado, New Mexico, is eligible for listing at the state level under National Register Criterion A in the areas of social history and Black ethnic heritage because the school is an important surviving example of racial segregation in southern New Mexico between 1925 and 1957.

Racial segregation in New Mexico remained distinct from Southern states in which Jim Crow laws affected every aspect of life for African Americans. In New Mexico, segregation was limited to self-selected school systems, but in some counties, African Americans continued to enjoy lives integrated with the white community. Additionally, Black schools in the South were mostly underfunded, substandard, and often over-crowded. Segregated schools in New Mexico built for African American children were

often solidly built, as indicated by the brick-and-concrete Dunbar School in Vado. Racial segregation in the state lasted from 1925 until roughly 1954, with the Supreme Court decision in *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka, Kansas*, which overturned the separate but equal doctrine. The Dunbar school in Vado, which is among a very small number of segregated schools built in the state, is a landmark in the history of segregation and in the history of African Americans in New Mexico.

On December 9, 2016, the Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School in Doña Ana County was confirmed for listing in the National Register of Historic Places by the New Mexico Cultural Properties Review Committee.

The National Register of Historic Places is the nation's official list of properties worthy of preservation. Listing in the National Register provides recognition of important prehistoric and historic places, and assists in preserving New Mexico's cultural heritage.

First Hand Historical Account

Submitted by: Bobbie J. Fuller Boyer, Vice President of Vado Historical Society, and student from 1946-1953

A small community of several hundred people located in the southern part of New Mexico known as Vado has a rich history in the state and especially for Blacks who came out West for better lives and living conditions.

A lot of these dreams were fulfilled, but the main subject of this article is Paul Laurence Dunbar

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Las Cruces, New Mexico

History of Phillips Chapel



Original look of Phillips Chapel CME Church



Today's look of Phillips Chapel CME Church

Story and photos courtesy: Faith Hutson

In the early 1900s, African Americans began settling in Las Cruces, where they began new lives in numerous venues. Members of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church first worshipped in the home of Daniel and Ollie Hibler. When the congregation grew too large they rented a small frame building at the corner of Campo Street and East Court Avenue. Services were held there until Phillips Chapel was completed in 1911.

Daniel Hibler purchased the land on which Phillips Chapel CME Church was built for \$45.00 and had it deeded to the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in America on May 1, 1911. The chapel was named after the Right Reverend Charles H. Phillips, the first presiding Bishop of the Colored Methodist Episcopal Church in America. Phillips Chapel is the oldest African American church in Las Cruces.

Throughout its long history, Phillips Chapel has served the Las Cruces community as a civic and social center. Clarence Fielder, grandson of Daniel and Ollie Hibler remembers attending many social activities held at the chapel when he was a child, and speaks fondly of “youth groups, ice cream socials, and hobo parties where we’d go house to house dressed as hobos and come back to have picnics with the food and goods we collected”. Many African American couples were married in the chapel, and their children christened there.

In the 1920s, the political climate in Las Cruces changed due to influence by new arrivals. Landholders

moving into New Mexico, where “Jim Crow” laws were established, created segregation laws and removed African American children from the public schools. Only schools in the southern part of the state, east of Deming, became segregated during the 1920s, including those in Las Cruces, Hobbs, and Alamogordo. The Las Cruces School District segregated in 1924, when about thirty-five children were removed from the Lucero School and sent to the Phillips Chapel CME Church. Gertrude Hibler Fielder, daughter of Ollie and Daniel Hibler, recalled being moved to attend classes with other Black children at the little Methodist church that her father had built.

After Booker T. Washington School was built, Phillips Chapel continued to serve as a place where baccalaureate services were held when African American students graduated from the segregated Booker until integration occurred in 1954, following the Supreme Court ruling of *Brown v. Topeka Board of Education*.

The chapel was listed on the State Register of Cultural Properties and National Register of Historic Places in 2003, thanks to the hard work of Ms. Terry Moody and Clarence Fielder. The restoration of Phillips Chapel began in 2010, and has been a three-year labor of love by many concerned volunteers and students of Doña Ana Community College.

Los Lunas, New Mexico

Ralph L. Mims, Village of Los Lunas Economic Developer, “Small Community, Big Possibility”



***(Left to right), Greg D. Martin, Village Administrator, Mayor, Charles Griego
Ralph L. Mims, Economic Development Manager, Governor, Susanna Martinez
Councilwomen, Paulette Sanchez-Montoya, Councilman, Gerard Saiz
and Councilman, Gino Romero, signal approval for a successful venture***

Ralph L. Mims is a very active Economic Developer in the State of New Mexico. He is currently the Economic Development Manager for the Village of Los Lunas. Los Lunas is one of the premier communities in New Mexico for its expanding economic, job and housing growth. Ralph is originally from Bronx, New York. He is a graduate of Nebraska Wesleyan University and Howard University in DC with a Master's Degree in City and Regional Planning. Ralph said, "To be a successful economic developer you have to be very assertive, a people person and refuse to take no for an answer". Being a New Yorker, that is the personality trait that Ralph possesses. He is strictly about business.

2016 was a HUGE year for the Village of Los Lunas! Ralph is a vital part of Los Lunas' continued success. He has helped Los Lunas to be an example for attracting large manufacturing businesses. He worked hard on the FACEBOOK Data Center deal that chose the Village of Los Lunas to place their 7th Global Data Center. The Village of Los Lunas beat out over 100 cities in the U.S. and several cities in New Mexico, to land this project. The project is expected to generate a two-billion dollar fiscal and economic impact in the Central NM Region and the Village of Los Lunas, and between 200-1,000 construction jobs per day. Ralph also attracted another big company in 2016, the Niagara Bottling Company out of

Los Lunas, New Mexico

Ontario, CA, which will occupy the old Merillat Cabinet Factory inhabiting 166,000 square feet and generating up to 45 good-paying jobs.

Ralph was also instrumental in attracting the Los Lunas Central Regional Park, which will be a major logistic manufacturing and industrial hub for companies moving cargo via rail. This Rail Park will attract businesses that rely on the Rail Park for cargo and goods transport and manufacturers that want to be located close to the rail. The Village of Los Lunas with Ralph's assistance annexed 1,400 acres that will allow the Village to capture future gross receipt taxes. This is a huge economic development project that can bring as many as 5,000 jobs and create massive economic, business spillover.

The Village of Los Lunas is also home of a Wal-Mart Distribution Center, Wall Colmonoy Corporation and Fresenius Medical Care Manufacturing Plants. In 2015, Ralph was active in the relocation of Accurate Machine and Tool, Inc Plant from Albuquerque to the Village of Los Lunas. The company built a 110,000-square foot plant which also attracted AMSCAN (Party City) Manufacturing Plant to the Village of Los Lunas. Party City plans to

expand the current facility another 100,000 square feet to keep up with their busy manufacturing demands and hopefully one day build a western distribution plant.

Ralph has been very active in retail recruitment attracting such national brands as Applebee's, IHOP, Planet Fitness, Pet Sense, Subway, Sally's Beauty Supply, Famous Footwear, RUE 21, Hibbets Sports, Maurice's Clothing Store and Church's Chicken. His success is due to his upbeat and positive attitude, always telling everyone he meets that Los Lunas is a community on the rise in New Mexico. He is active in attending trade shows, sales missions and retail conferences trying to persuade businesses to set up shop in the Village of Los Lunas.

Finally, Ralph is also active in international economic development and is a real estate investor. As a native of the Caribbean, having family in Antigua and Barbuda, he has his own company based there, the R. Mims World Group; which is active in attracting foreign-based companies. His economic development sector focus is on renewable energy, manufacturing and housing initiatives and creating good paying jobs with livable wages.

Los Lunas "A Community That Works!"



Santa Fe, New Mexico

RENOWNED ACTIVIST & SCHOLAR ANGELA DAVIS IN NEW MEXICO!!



Wanda Padilla and the legendary Angela Davis

By Dr. Wanda Ross Padilla

Thanks to the Lannan Foundation and the creative genius of Ms. Cathy McGill, many New Mexicans of color were privileged to be present at the Lensic Theater in Santa Fe, to meet and hear a dynamic talk by Angela Y. Davis. This epic event took place November, 2016.

The Lannan Foundation is a lecture series on political, economic, environmental, and human rights issues featuring social justice activists, writers, journalists and scholars discussing critical topics of our day.

Cathy McGill is the Founder and Director of the NM Black History Month Organizing Committee. It was through Cathy's creativity, genius and efforts, as well as her connections with the Lannan Foundation, that she was able to organize an event which included securing a luxury coach (Sun Tours) for nearly 50 residents of Albuquerque, taking these fortunate souls directly to the beautiful and historic Lensic Theater.

Angela Davis' name is well-known around the world as a political activist, an academic scholar, and author, who for many decades has been deeply involved in movements for social justice world wide.

She is a distinguished professor emerita in the History of Consciousness and Feminist Studies Departments at the University of California Santa Cruz and has taught at San Francisco State University, Mills College, University of California (Berkeley and Los Angeles), Vassar College, Syracuse University, The Claremont

Colleges and Stanford University.

Also on program was Barbara Ransby, a historian, author, and longtime activist. She is Professor of History, African American Studies, and Gender/Women's Studies at the University of Illinois at Chicago, where she also directs the Social Justice Initiative and the Gender and Women's Studies Programs.

Barbara serves on the editorial of the Justice, Power, and Politics series at the University of North Carolina Press. She is also on the Scholar's Advisory Committee of Ms. Magazine, and is the second Editor-in-Chief of Souls, a critical journal of Black Politics, Culture and Society published quarterly since 1999. She is the author of Ella Baker and the Black Freedom Movement: A Radical Democratic Vision and Elinda: The Large and Unconventional Life of Mrs. Paul Robeson. Her newest book is Making All Black Lives Matter: Re-Imagining Freedom in the Twenty-First Century, forthcoming in 2017.

For those who may not remember Angela Davis or who have forgotten why she is so admired and why she attracted a sell-out audience at the Lensic Theater in Santa Fe, she spoke about the impact of the civil rights movement past and present: "While there has been a great deal of progress over the last forty years... at least we do not have laws that segregate Black people within the society any longer." She discussed the fact that she grew up in Birmingham, Alabama, where there were water fountains and restrooms labeled "white" and "colored"; and where school systems were separate. We don't have that anymore. She stated that even though we have seen significant progress, there has also been significant regression. She said that racism in the 90's and today is probably more structurally entrenched than it was over 40 years ago. With approximately one million Black people behind bars, the unemployment rate doubled that of white people, and the dismantling of all kinds of services that used to be available (educational, recreational, and welfare) vast numbers of Blacks, people of color and poor white people find themselves in a situation that would have been unimaginable even 30 years ago. Angela made it clear that the struggle

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The Paul Laurence Dunbar Elementary School Becomes A Historical Landmark

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Elementary School, where many Black children were educated as families came from Southern states such as Georgia, Alabama, Oklahoma, and Texas, to name a few.

We were blessed and fortunate to have Mrs. Gile B. Grimes as our principal. She came to the surrounding area highly educated and quickly developed a deep emotional connection to the citizens of the community, especially the children. There were other teachers who came to teach at Dunbar: Mrs. Fobbs, Ms. Dean, and one of our own, Mr. Thomas C. Conley (my uncle). They were all there to witness and help foster our education as we worked up to our high level of achievement.

After the School Integration Act was passed, we all moved to various schools in the small towns surrounding the Vado community. The older students were bused to Booker T. Washington School in Las Cruces, NM where they completed their education. The younger students, including myself, completed our education at Gadsden High School located in Anthony, NM.

The closing of the school was not the end of the various activities that would be housed for the community. The school was a hub for many things that went on in the community to hold it together. One of the various activities held at the school was our June 19th celebration, which was a grand day for us at the school. The school later became known as the Vado Community Center.

The center was a polling place for all of the elections in the county, state, and nation. For years Mr. Hobart Boyer served us as Republican Chairman and Mr. Sammie Fuller (my father) as Democratic Chairman. They were always encouraging voters of the community to take part in the elections.

The center has also served as a hot lunch program for senior citizens, a 4-H Club meeting place for the youth, and an extension club for the women of the community. Some of the other functions include wedding receptions, birthday parties, church fellowships, family

gatherings for funerals, and many other gatherings for the community. The center has served as the functions needed to support the Vado Water System Operations. After renovations, the Vado Community Center began to house the Early Education Head Start Program, which is still functioning to this day.

If I were the school and I could speak, I would say that the honor of being placed on the State and National Register of Historical Preservation Division is noteworthy to the people who have walked through my doors and is something all the people of the world should know.

Thanks and contributions should be given to the people responsible for all the hard work who made this a reality. First of all, my loving and caring husband of almost 50 years, Mr. Roosevelt A. Boyer Jr., was always interested in history and this was one of his dreams. I, Bobbie J. Fuller Boyer, had been one of his strongest supporters. He worked long and hard on this project. His dream was so inspirational that his sister, Mrs. Shirley C. Boyer McGuire was always around to help fill in details that may have been overlooked. Mrs. Espy Holguin not only listened to his dream, but also went to work and gathered information on how to complete the project with the help of Mrs. Jean Fulton and Mrs. Holguin's ever supporting husband, Mr. Johnny Holguin. Mrs. Emma Flournoy, who is a pillar in the community, was always available and ready to contribute much needed, relevant information. The State and National Register Coordinator, Mr. Steven Moffson, completed the project and made it a reality. Thanks to all the Historical Preservation Division for your overwhelming support.

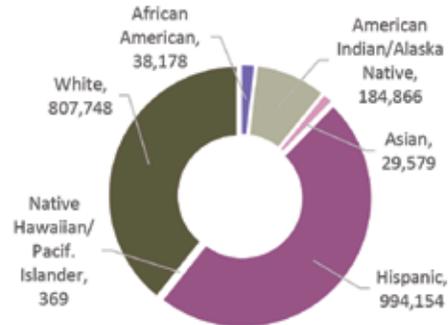
If I failed to leave out important details, please forgive me and charge it to my head and not my heart.

Data Hub

State of Black New Mexico 2014

Population

Total NM Population: 2,085,572
 Black Population (one race): 38,178 (1.8%)
 Black Population (one race or multi race): 53,302 (2.6%)



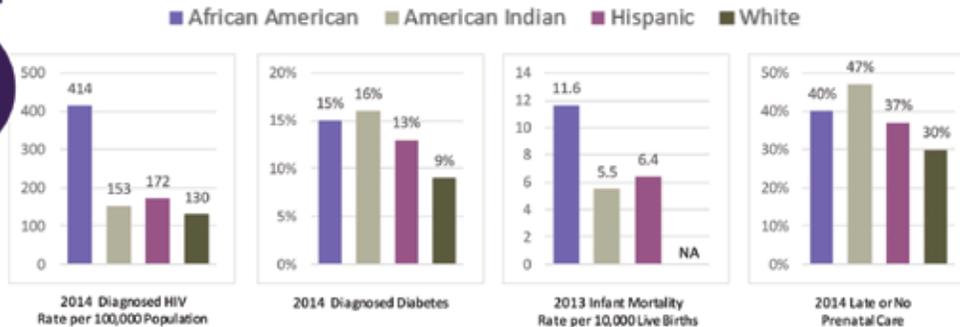
Economics

Median Income: \$37,773
 Below Poverty Line: 21.8%
 Unemployment: 11.7%
 Home Ownership: 43.9%



		African American	American Indian	Asian	Hispanic	White, non-Hispanic
Median Income	NM	\$37,773	\$31,592	\$55,988	\$38,236	\$53,422
	US	\$35,481	\$37,227	\$74,105	\$42,748	\$59,622
Unemployment	NM	11.7%	19.0%	7.0%	9.6%	5.7%
	US	13.2%	13.3%	5.6%	8.4%	5.8%
Below Federal Poverty Line	NM	21.8%	34.6%	12.3%	25.5%	13.4%
	US	27.0%	28.3%	12.5%	24.1%	10.8%
Home Ownership	NM	43.9%	60.7%	60.3%	64.8%	71.1%
	US	41.2%	53.0%	57.5%	45.0%	71.0%

Health



SOURCES

Population and economic data: American Community Survey, 2014 1-YR Estimates. U.S. Census Bureau. Tables DP05, S1903, B25003, B25003 B-I, S2301, B17020 B-I.
 Health data: HIV Surveillance Report: Diagnoses of HIV Infection in the United States and Dependent Areas, National Center for HIV/AIDS; BRFSS Survey, NM DOH; IBIS, NM DOH.



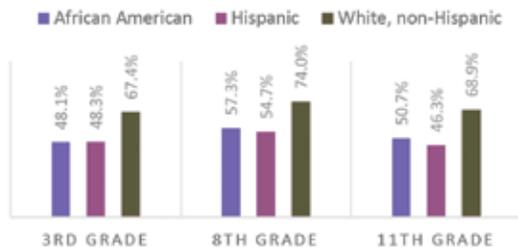
Data Hub

K-12 Education

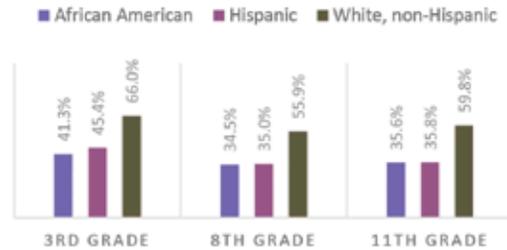


SBA Proficiencies by Grade and Race, 2014

READING PROFICIENCY



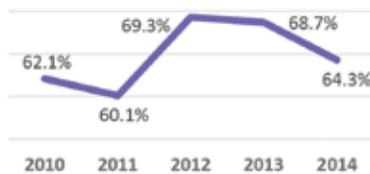
MATH PROFICIENCY



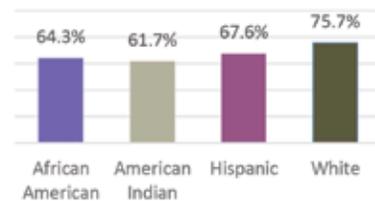
SBA Proficiency Gap: African American/Non-Hispanic White Students



4-Year Black HS Graduation Rate, 2010-2014



4-Year HS Graduation Rate, 2014



Youth Risk and Resiliency

- Drug use (cocaine, heroin, inhalants, marijuana, and methamphetamine) highest among black youth in 2013.
- Black tobacco use reduced by 63% from 2003 to 2011.
- Black alcohol use reduced by 53% from 2003 to 2011.
- Black youth have some of the lowest obesity rates.

Want more in-depth data?

Please go to <http://www.oaaa.state.nm.us/dashboards.aspx>



Incarceration

- Incarcerated black adults in NM: Local jails (2013): 380; State Corrections (2015): 595
- Incarcerated black youth in NM (2013): 21
- Black adults were over-represented in local jails both in NM (2x the estimated pop) and the US (2.7x the estimated pop) in 2013.
- Incarcerated black youth were also over-represented in NM (2.9x the estimated pop) and the US (2.8x the estimated pop) in 2013.

SOURCES

Education data: NM Public Education Department (NMPED).

Youth risk and resiliency data: Youth Risk and Resiliency Survey. IBIS Youth Health Indicator Report, NM Department of Health.

Adult incarceration data: Census of Jails Population Changes. US Department of Justice.

Youth incarceration data: Easy Access to the Census of Juveniles in Residential Placement, Sickmund, Sladky, Kang, and Puzanchera.

Black Lives Matter Panel Sessions Highlight Race Relations at UNM

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He said, “One of the goal/objectives (during “Black Lives Matter at UNM”) could’ve been to inform us about how well we understand the notion of culture and historic trauma in the institutionalized racism that exists in the state of New Mexico, and eventually, bring forth ideas and concerns and answer questions that could form a process of further deliberation on how to dismantle institutionalized racism or structural racism and the violence that occurs as a result of that. Black Lives Matter is not just about police violence, but it’s about a system of violence that is structured and embedded in the culture...at some point, we have to ask very critical questions about, ‘What is the role of education in America at this particular time?’”

One audience member discussed an art project he created during one of the sessions. He said he incorporated the words “love” and “change” in his project, because “I hope we change from this, and we come to understand what’s going on, (while also) loving all cultures of all colors.” He also noted that hate spews from lack of knowledge, which prevents change.

Another audience member who attended the health-themed session felt it was extremely informative and offered her a different perspective. “I never thought of racism being a factor in my well-being, in my health,” she said. “Today also helped me in gaining some vocabulary on how to talk about this more and how to have conducive conversations with my peers.”

Dr. Becknell Jr. said he anticipates “Black Lives Matter at UNM” will link the communities in both Albuquerque and at UNM and have a stronger impact across a variety of genders, ethnicities and races. “We’re educating a broader base of people who are educated to make decisions. That’s where the real potential is. That’s where the real potential must lie. That’s where the real solutions must begin. Race in America today is what it’s always been. It moves

and operates in the climate that is constructed in the era that it exists. There’s still more work to be done.”

More sessions will begin during the Spring 2017 semester after further data collection. To learn more about “Black Lives Matter at UNM,” visit: diverse.unm.edu.

A Modern-Day Hero

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impossible, because what I recognize as important are the smiles and tears of joy shared with our veterans when someone acknowledges the value of the sacrifices they have made. Our veterans deserve way more than to be homeless or sick without services. These conditions can only be changed through the investments of a nation that cares.”

The Mo’s Heroes programs are currently operating in Hawaii and New Mexico, and ShaDonna believes that the additional time generated through her retirement will enable her to more rapidly affect the growth and expansion of Mo’s Heroes.

To find out more about Mo’s Heroes or how to get involved, e-mail volunteers@mosheroes.org.

Meet LEONARD WAITES: New Director of the NM MLK Jr. State Commission

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The Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. State Commission is located on the 2nd Floor of the African American Performing Arts Theater, 310 San Pedro NE. You may contact the office at 505-222-6465 or visit the website at www.nmmlksc.org.

New Mexico State University Black Student Association

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Members of BSA's executive team traveled to Rochester, New York, to attend a National Black Collegiate Conference. One such idea they brought back and implemented was to partner with other regional universities to create an alliance. As a result, a partnership has arisen between the Black Student Union at the University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP). During the summer of 2016, they collaborated with and hosted several community events, including a community vigil for the tragic and controversial deaths of Philando Castile and Alton Sterling.

In late August of 2016, NMSU's Black Student Association and UTEP's Black Student Union collaborated to send a delegation of 13 graduate and undergraduate students to Albuquerque, to attend the 2016 New Mexico Black Expo. This trip would not have been possible without the gracious support and sponsorship of the Office of African American Affairs and members of the Las Cruces and Rio Rancho Black communities. While in Albuquerque, the students took the opportunity to meet with their counterparts at the University of New Mexico (UNM).

If ever you find yourself in Las Cruces, stop by and visit the students in Black Programs on the NMSU campus, Garcia Annex Room 135, where you can join in some of the weekly activities such as the widely popular Dashiki Thursdays and Friday evening talk-sessions, "Let's Talk about It". For more information call, 575-646-4208 or email blackpro@nmsu.edu.

A Legacy of Leadership

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He works closely with UNM Regents, UNM President, the Foundation, Athletics, legislators, various colleges, student organizations, alumni chapters, University Communications, Alumni Relations Office, and the Greater Albuquerque Community to enhance communication, collaboration and cooperation.

Lewis reviewed the documents of incorporation that registered the organization and saw that today's practices would not support the Bylaws and the Articles of Incorporation. Lewis said, "They had not been modified in over 27 years, so this has been one of the major undertakings that the Board and I have taken on during my term as President of the Alumni Association. Among the things that I wanted to see for the Alumni Association is more diversity throughout the organization, and so far, this is one of the areas we have been able to make a difference. We been able to bring several people onto committees and get other ethnic groups on board because there is strength in diversity."

Lewis talked about how the organization plans to expand membership and outreach through a variety of different events and projects.

Just as Lewis has done throughout his years as a public servant, he is dedicated to have whatever position or office he holds be better served for having him be a part.

Lewis attributes his success to strong family support and a sound education foundation.



For Our Future, DreamBIG

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Banks stated how he feels it is necessary to make each child in attendance know that they are a big deal "... I want each student there to feel celebrated for going back to school. Be it they're going into their senior year of high school or pre-k." Banks continued to disclose how this day is for everyone. "The families' salaries, race, and status does not matter. Kutz4Kidz is a color blind and a judgement free zone. If they make \$40-50,000 a year, whether they're a cashier, unemployed, or a director somewhere, they can come and receive some help. It's a need for all, especially at the beginning of the school year." Over the last three years Kutz4Kidz has also been established in Round Rock, Texas where 16,000 students have also benefited. Kutz4Kidz is due to expand out into other areas as well, in hopes to alleviate the need and provide support in other communities.

DreamBIG has much in store for the coming year. Banks glowed about the latest program known as the Youth Employment Symposium (Y.E.S. program). The focus is on high school students that are 15-18 years old, they must have a 3.0 GPA or higher (or letter of recommendation from an educator). DreamBIG will be partnering with Mission: Graduate, and Intel. The objective is to engage students with information and resources to assist them in articulating a clear path for their future, navigating through the transition from student to employee.

On September 29, 2016, DreamBIG launched the successful pilot of this program. 141 students from Bernalillo High School showed up prepared in business casual attire. They got to experience an exclusive tour of Intel facilities, a car show, informative breakout sessions (Digital ethics, and interview/resume skill development), and a working lunch with over 15 employers and New Mexico colleges. The feedback was amazing, as students raved about their new knowledge and showed new confidence for the next steps after they complete high school. One parent even wrote- in to DreamBIG grateful for the program. "My daughter took notes, and really learned some things. She even made some concrete decisions about her future today. Well Done!" (Parent of

Bernalillo High School Junior) Now this coming Spring DreamBIG will open registration to more schools and are expecting double the attendance. Y.E.S. will also be introduced in Texas this year as well.

Suffice it to say this is refreshing news for the condition that our youth have been in. Banks stated "The aim is to be solution oriented and not just reactive. These kids in our communities are our future entrepreneurs, nurses, mechanics, engineers, law enforcement, educators, and more. It is our duty to ensure they know they have positive guidance and support from us (their elders)."

Kevin Banks and the programs provided by DreamBIG definitely evoke a call to action for all of us, not just sponsoring, or donating to DreamBIG specifically (although supporting local Black owned, non-profits in any facet are welcome). This year find out how you can influence or act as part of the solution that the coming generations so desperately need.

For more information on this particular non-profit go to dreambigabq.org.

RENOWNED ACTIVIST & SCHOLAR ANGELA DAVIS IN NEW MEXICO!!

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continues and we all must get involved in the struggle.

She kept emphasizing the need for self-care of our bodies, minds and spirit so that we can contribute positively to the struggle. Angela talked about how slavery and the prison industrial complex connect. The abolishment of slavery abolished by the 13th amendment is still very much with us.

We need to refer to Angela Davis' writings; she is a role model of what it will take for us to "truly overcome"... as Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr, emphasized.

What an evening with these two brilliant, articulate women!

Again, many thanks to both the Lannan Foundation and Ms. Cathy McGill for making this an historic experience for so many New Mexicans of color.

New Mexico Office of African American Affairs



Executive Order

The New Mexico State Office of African American Affairs was enacted by the 44th New Mexico State Legislature in 1999 under House Bill 909 and established by Executive Order under the administration of Governor Gary Johnson.

Mission

To study, identify, and provide solutions to issues of concern relevant to the African American community.

Vision

To be a "Go To" agency in New Mexico on matters relating to methods that improve the quality of life for African Americans. By providing valuable resources to our constituents, our governor, legislators, educators, health care professionals, et al, we will ensure access to resources that provide for the success of all New Mexicans.

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Director, Small Business Development Center
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---Anyone interested in serving on the Office of African American Affairs Executive Advisory Committee may submit their information to Yvette Kaufman-Bell at yvette.kaufmanbell@state.nm.us

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See other side for more information.

*The Governor's Office is located on the 4th floor
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OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

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